

REPORT TITLE | **Confirmation for Minutes**

**MOTION**

Moved by *Anthony McWatters*, seconded by *Mark Ready*.

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated 16 February 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**



**0905 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES****DISCUSSION OF OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF BIOSECURITY**

To be included in future agendas (e.g., REIQ, Bold Magazine, specific group interactions). Cr Sommerfield advised no update regarding REIQ.

**ACTION: Cr Sommerfield to follow up REIQ discussions of opportunities of Biosecurity.**

**FERAL DEER MANAGEMENT**

Mark Ready advised committee that there is one landowner in the North currently having difficulty with feral deer eating his oat crops. He was going to talk to his neighbours to gauge their level of concern and then come back to Mark for further discussions. Committee advised that it might be worthwhile talking to Marc Lehman further regarding the Feral Deer Management as he had done some work with landholders around feral deer management on rural properties. To date no follow up has been sought from the landowner in the North. Garry Wilson advised it is desirable for TRC to engage Landcare Groups & possibly deer hunters', Mark Ready responded that many years ago, Council had previously connected with these groups for feral deer management with varied success.

**ACTION: As discussed at previous meetings to be left on as an agenda item.**

**0915 CHAIRPERSONS THANKYOU TO COMMITTEE**

Cr Sommerfield expressed her thanks to the outgoing committee, and that she was grateful and appreciative for those who have been able to attend these meetings over the last 4 years, and how she feels that this committee has formed and established valuable relationships with one another. Also conveyed a desire to see many of the outgoing committee members reapply, to be on the newly formed committee. Cr Sommerfield also stated her interest to see the newsletters start up again, hoping with the new committee they will also see the benefits in having a Newsletter.

**0917 TRC UPDATE – GARRY WILSON**

**Garry reported the Baiting figures for November 2023 to the committee which are attached to the back of the minutes. Next Baiting program will run March 2024.**

**Biosecurity**

Continuation of private property surveys including Council owned property within the focus areas.

**Cambooya, Cooyar, Domville, Jondaryan, Yarraman.**

- High level of voluntary compliance noted, particularly by way of phone communications.
- Currently recruiting vacant BCO Position.

**Operational Matters:**

- Parthenium surveys have continued with minimal findings.
- Chilean Needle Grass – Some small infestations in known areas of Clifton, treated as required. No major infestations at present
- Given recent rain events, a focus has been on treatment of African Boxthorn as its in prime condition for treatment.
- Wild dog sightings and complaints, baiting participation remain stable.
- Feral Pig complaints are steady, no major areas that are making requests.
- Feral Deer- making contact with Landcare groups to discuss any deer issues as well as C&PM in general.

- Commencement of the Show display circuit. Starting with Clifton 17/2, Cooyar 24/2, Millmerran, 2/3, Pittsworth 8/3, Oakey 16/3, Toowoomba 18 April, Goombungee 27/4 and Crows Nest 11/5

### 0930 PARTNER UPDATES

#### Sharna Matthews

- Focusing on parthenium.
- Inglewood - feral deer management.
- Wild dog baiting.

#### Steven Moore

- LVRCs involvement with FAST (Fire Ant Suppression Task Force) and the new requirements for all landowners in the Fire Ant Zones to manage their properties in fire ant prevention.
- Narda Lagoon, Laidley Water Lettuce Treatment Program using CLIPPER HERBICIDE.
- Community Hoggone Hopper Program and sodium nitrite feral pig baiting.
- Wild Dog update of healthy numbers and record numbers, of related customer requests with consistent reports of packs of wild dogs throughout the areas due to ideal environmental conditions.
- Weed reports steady but not overwhelming considering an ideal growing season. Healthy grazing grasses and the higher growth canopy has reduced regulated weed's ability to thrive thus far this season.
- Have yet to focus on our Biosecurity Surveillance program in the Helidon Spa in preparation for future fire ant management however the surveillance program will commence in the next 8 or so weeks to come.

Cr Sommerfield questioned if the State Government Subsidies the Fire Ant Suppression Task Force? Steven advised it is Federally funded with no money allocated only resources e.g. baits are supplied for free, with registration done online to receive the baits.

#### Sam Noller

- The rains have been good to get on top of boxthorn.
- Have a full team of staff.
- Pig numbers decreased over winter.
- Noticed an increase in wild dogs.
- Crops looking good.

#### Peter Tatham

- Feral Deer Management arranging to have SSAA present to the committee.
- Dog sightings reported, no pigs sighted.

#### Janet Barker

- Thanked TRC and Cr Sommerfield for the opportunity to be on committee and appreciates the open dialogue.
- Invasive species update – PAWS at Dalby was great thankyou to WDRC and those involved.
- Gladstone Area Water Board is to host Pest and Weeds Symposium in Gladstone in 2025.
- There does not appear to be too much parthenium around in Cambooya.

- Pigs' have been visible in vegetable crops at the moment.
- Shooting reform camera network.
- Qld Feral Pest Initiative – funding is available for eligible organisation to employ 1 or more, up to a maximum of 4, feral pig management coordinators positions to support the initiative and delivery of effective feral pig management for both private and public land managers. It is offered to eligible applicants for 3 years.
- Expressed disappointment of loss of experienced Biosecurity knowledge from NRM Officers from a public space and how do we fill the gap with skills e.g. Darren Marshall.

Cr Sommerfield questioned if TRC knew if this QFPI round was opened? with Sally Egan advising that you would be required to be a part of a cluster of Council's like SDROC to be valid to apply.

### Marc Leman

- Ran successful Drought Information Session in partnership with Q DAF, QRIDA, RFCS and Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group, to improve the knowledge and skills of landholder's dry season management (nutrition and drought feeding), farm business resilience plans, and provided information on drought assistance and support available, as well as drought management principles and resources. Held on the 10th of October at Emu Creek Hall, with 33 participants including 26 landholders, the info session was part of HLW's Qld Government funded Natural Resources Recovery Program (NRRP).
- Also, through NRRP, supporting 5 landholders in Emu Creek Catchment to undertake works (strategic fencing, water points, fire management) to improve land condition over 1400 ha.
- Also, through NRRP, working with Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc. to undertake strategic weed control targeting mainly lantana to enhance native vegetation on 10 properties along Main Range – incl Preston, Rockmount, Upper Flagstone areas as well as ongoing staged biocontrol releases for Cats claw creeper & Madeira vine at 27 sites in upper Lockyer.
- Through Future Drought Fund Drought Resilient Soils project, supporting 3 landholders in Emu Creek catchment undertake on-grounds projects demonstrating improved land condition & drought resilience. The project also involves working with Emu Creek Landcare & landholders to run a field day in March-April looking at different pasture & legume establishment techniques.
- SQNNSW Innovation Hub – HLW managing Node in Southeast Qld supporting extension, adoption and innovation initiatives to improve sustainability & drought & climate resilience, including recent series of 3 Drought Preparedness & Farm Business Resilience Plan workshops with DAF, QRIDA, RFCSSQ and involvement in development of Regional Drought Resilience Plan for SEQ (recognising most of TRC covered by Darling Downs Plan).

Upcoming activities: Bookings essential for both

- **Sat 9th March** - Rosalie North Landcare Group running Wellbeing Bus Trip locations around Yarraman.
- **Sat 16th March** - Qld Fire & Biodiversity Consortium running Fire Management Planning workshop at Cooyar with TRC & QFES.

### Peter Sparshott

- Fire ants' - Main Roads gearing up controls for buffer zones and engage LG's with this being just an idea for now.
- Please ensure that claims are coming through and reach out to Ken McCray who is a colleague who is experienced in this area for any assistance.

**Graham Cooke**

- Agreed that Janets point raise a challenge for funding regarding NRM bodies.
- Seasonal conditions have created a turnaround in weather conditions.
- Pigs and dogs are around.
- Fire ants are in hand.
- Weed control appears to be under control.

Garry responded that survey areas in general staff have under control with most species, with some areas still requiring some work.

**Mat Warren**

DDMRB February 2024 Report attached.



February 2024 TRC  
BAC DDMRB Report.p

**1020-1050 MORNING TEA****Carissa Hallinan**

- PAWS conference was a great event.
- Increase in parthenium on both Roadside and Private Land.
- Water Hyacinth – having good success.
- Wild Dog Barrier Fence Review – long-time going, options in process to Council re: management and payments.
- ASF/QFP Funding – Pig Collaring in Bunyas
- Training Pig baiter hoppers.
- Fires in region co-ordinating backburn programs with QFS and Main Roads with burn programs and local brigade.
- Vegetation Compliance – Clearing and encouragement for stock routes with who does what e.g. LG trustee without permit.
- First show for the season being the Bell Show on the 2 March 2024.

**Bryan Potter**

- Wild dog bounties January – 44 dogs (\$4500) YTD 95 (\$17800)
- Wild Dog Aerial baiting planning for 17/18 April has commenced with approx. 320km of flight path to be baited at 40 baits / km using processed dry baits.
- Investigated using Eradicate feral cat bait in conjunction with wild dog baits, however it is only registered in WA and one specific location in a Qld National Park.
- Tender for SWDSF maintenance contract has been awarded for 4 years, with the option to extend out to 6 years.
- Annual replacement sections of the SWDSF have now been completed as well as ground skirt replacement on existing sections.

**Anthony McWatters**

- Would like to express appreciation and the value this committee has towards biosecurity, also would like to thank committee members.

- Northern areas in the Darling Downs has had rain at the right time with explosion in pest overgrown with lantana, acknowledge knowledge and resources fantastic HLW & SQL etc thanked everyone.

### Andrew McCartney

- SQL appreciates the opportunity to be here as a participant in the TRC BAC forum.
- I acknowledge the comments in relation to concerns about changes in our company as part of a restructure at the end of 2023 – this was both unfortunate and unavoidable due to significant changes in NRM investment, particularly in the last 12 to 18 months.
- Both the Australian and Qld Government's investment has reduced in scale and changed in focus which of course has a direct impact on our resourcing and services offering.
- We are now re-focussing on core business which involves stepping back from some work we have previously done, specifically feral pig collaring.
- However, we still have capacity in the area of strategic feral pest management and a detection dog so are happy to talk to anyone looking for those services.
- Part of our ongoing work is a small project for the QFPI Round 7 which is looking at participation rates in strategic pest management initiatives – a common issue in many local government areas. While it is still at an early stage, some really interesting insights have been gained.
- We are currently in negotiation with the Australia government about several projects under their procurement arrangements which are likely to have pest and weed components – we will share the results when the process is completed.

### Mark Ready

Presented the DAF report as Ted was an apology.

#### (Report submitted by Ted Vinson from DAF).

- Staff continued surveillance in the region with negative results for Australian Plague Locusts.
- Staff have been working with LG on biological control options for Hudson Pear, Coral Cactus and Harissia.
- Staff working with LG on compliance around keeping restricted cacti and restricted matter permits.

### 1130 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mark advised the committee of an alert received from BQ regarding the freshwater gold clam found in the Brisbane River, which is highly invasive, this is the first time it has been reported in Australia. The fact sheet can be found on the DAF website and people have been encouraged to report them, the freshwater gold clam has been reported previously in NZ, but not Australia, the clam is a long-distance hitchhiker in ballast water and can also be spread through the aquarium trade, people emptying aquariums.

**ACTION: Mark Ready to forward a copy of this alert to committee members.**

Craig prompted the committee about the Rabbit-Free Australia Foundation for Bilbies Not Bunnies which was sent out to members, seeking feedback by Friday 23 February to the national rabbit coordinator. Craig took this opportunity to thank the committee and Cr Sommerfield.

Cr Sommerfield questioned the Eradicator baiting program and why it was just in the state of WA and the issues regarding cat registrations.

Steve advised that he was very impressed with Clipper Herbicide that controls selected floating, emergent and submerged aquatic weeds and algae. LVRC program started the program which was approved 1 ½ years ago. Can be used in a spray or tablet form and can provide a case study and share photos to the committee.

**1145 GROUP PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Photo attached to minutes for both the BAC & Council’s community representatives.

**12:00 LUNCH AND CLOSE**

**NEXT MEETING:**

Committee advised this will be the last meeting with the current members as there is a Local Government Election in March 2024.

**Action Items**

Meeting Date	Action Officer	Action	Due Date	Action Date
17 Nov 2023	Mark Ready	Cr Sommerfield requested that feral deer management updates be included in a future agenda.	16 Feb 2024	Ongoing
16 February 2024	Mark Ready	To forward alert regarding the freshwater gold clam to committee members.	16 Feb 2024	16 Feb 2024





**C+PM BAITING NOVEMBER 2023**

Southern			
Day/Date	Manufactured Baits	Meat Baits (KG x 4)	Participants
Monday – 13.11.2023	80	16kg (64)	9
Tuesday – 14.11.2023	80	94kg (376)	12
Wednesday 15.11.2023	230	17kg (68)	8
Thursday – 16.11.2023	439	27kg (108)	28
ADHOC –	Please note these figures include any ad hoc baiting during the period Sept – November 2023.		
Totals =	829 Doggone	154kgs (616 Baits)	57
Northern			
Day/Date	Manufactured	Meat Baits (kg x 4)	Participants
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2023	100	131.5kg (526 baits)	18
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2023	191	99kg (396 baits)	14
ADHOC –	Please note these figures include any ad hoc baiting during the period Sept – November 2023.		
Totals =	291 DOGGONE	230.5kg (922 Baits)	32
Grand Total =	Manufactured 1120	Meat Baits (kg x 4) 384.5kgs (1538 baits)	Participants 89

**Next Coordinated baiting program will run 18 – 21 March 2024**

**Bounty Collection**

17<sup>th</sup> of January – Goombungee & Clifton bounty claims received.

Goombungee	Clifton
• Scalps collected/accepted = 17	• Scalps collected/accepted = 0
• Number of scalps rejected = 0	• Number of scalps rejected = 0
• Number of Claimants = 2	• Number of Claimants = 0

**Grazing Permits** - Nil, a few enquires, unable to issue due to area not drought declared